

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:GMR

APPROVED BY: ARA:HARYAN

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P 231546Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120860

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUENOS AIRES 3531 ACTION SECSTATE  
22 MAY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3531

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MORG, AR

SUBJECT: NEW COMMANDING GENERAL OF ARMY SHOWS INDEPENDENCE

REF: A. BA 3425, B. DAO MESSAGE IR NO. 6 804 0385 75, AND

C. DAO MESSAGE IR NO. 6 804 0387 75

1. EVENTS OVER PAST THREE DAYS SUGGEST THAT WHILE GENERAL  
LAPLANE HAD REPUTATION BEFORE APPOINTMENT AS BEING SOMEWHAT  
SYMPATHETIC TO LOPEZ REGA, NOW THAT HE IS COMMANDING GENERAL  
OF ARMY, LATTER WILL NOT FIND HIM A PUSHOVER. ON MAY 19,  
LAPLANE WENT TO DEFENSE MINISTER SAVINO WITH LIST OF NEW  
APPOINTMENTS FOR SENIOR ARMY SLOTS TO FILL VACANCIES  
CAUSED BY FORCED RETIREMENT OF THE THREE GENERALS SENIOR  
TO LAPLANE (GENERALS GOMEZ CENTURION, RIVERA AND DELLA  
CROCE). LAPLANE HAD CONSULTED WITH HIS GENERALS AND LIST  
HE PRESENTED HAD SUPPORT OF ARMY. SAVINO, HOWEVER,  
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REFUSED TO ACCEPT IT, POINTING OUT THAT AT LEAST TWO OF  
THE GENERALS LAPLANE WISHED TO APPOINT WERE PRECISELY

THE ONES HE AND LOPEZ REGA WANTED TO GET RID OF. LAPLANE STUCK TO HIS GUNDS. HENCE, HE AND SAVINO MET WITH MRS. PERON AND LOPEZ REGA NEXT DAY, MAY 20, TO THRASH OUT MATTERS. LAPLANE REPORTEDLY WENT INTO THIS SECOND MEETING THREATENING TO RESIGN IF HIS LIST NOT ACCEPTED. IN THE EVENT, HOWEVER, A COMPROMISE WAS REACHED. SOME NAMES WERE CHANGED, BUT SOME LOPEZ REGA HAD WISHED TO SEE REMOVED STAYED ON.

2. COMMENT: AFFAIR THUS ENDED (FOR THE MOMENT) IN A STAND OFF, BUT THIS IN ITSELF IS SIGNIFICANT. LOPEZ REGA HAD APPEARED TO HAVE THE BALL AND TO BE IN A POSITION TO DO ALMOST ANYTHING HE WANTED TO WITH IT FOR THE MOMENT. LAPLANE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HIS MAN. YET, LAPLANE HAS DEFIED HIM AND COME OFF WITH A TIED GAME. SEVERAL THINGS EMERGE CLEARLY FROM THE PAST FEW DAYS: A) DESPITE HIS REPUTATION AS SYMPATHETIC TO LOPEZ REGA, LAPLANE IS FIRST AND FOREMOST AN ARMY GENERAL AND IS LOYAL TO HIS INSTITUTION; B) THE ARMY KNOWS HE HAS DEFENDED THEIR INTERESTS AND MAY RALLY BEHIND HIM IN RESPONSE; C) LOPEZ REGA DOES NOT HAVE THE SUPINE COMMANDING GENERAL HE MAY HAVE EXPECTED. HILL UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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